Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: Napa Creek Flood Protection Project

Tracking No: 200784104

Location: Napa, CA

County: Napa

Project Sponsor: Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Point of Contact: Heather Stanton, (707) 259-8600

Co-applicant(s): None

Assembly District: #7 Noreen Evans **Senate District:** #2 Pat Wiggins

Project Summary: The Napa Creek Flood Protection Project is being implemented along 0.67 miles of Napa Creek in the City of Napa. The objective of the Creek Project is to provide an economically feasible and environmentally sensitive method to protect the residents and businesses in the Napa Creek and downtown area of the City of Napa from 100-year storm events while protecting the highly valued riparian corridor in the creek and creating a park in downtown Napa.

Acquisition of properties has already occurred and the residents and businesses along the creek are eager to see their properties obtain flood protection. The overall proposed Napa Creek project consists of a lower, middle, and an upper reach. The Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District requested funds from the Department of Water Resources, Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) for construction of a bypass culverts (lower reach) and a floodplain terrace (middle reach) The culverts would allow the existing stream geometry and vegetation to remain intact; however the culverts are structural and as such are not eligible for FPCP funding. This is significant as this section of the creek contains mature native trees, good shade, and is a steelhead rearing area. The floodplain terrace has been designed to minimize the removal of existing trees and the remaining upland area will serve as a park. The terrace will provide transitory storage of flood waters, and the bypass culvert will lessen the volume of flood water to the Creek during flows greater than a two-year event. Most of the work to construct the floodplain terrace (middle reach) is non-structural and would be eligible for funding. However, because of potential liability due to changes in flood risk for downstream properties, the culvert section (lower reach) must be built first or at least at the same time as the floodplain terrace (middle reach), but the lower reach does not yet have approved funding.

During the review of the FPCP application it became apparent that the City of Napa and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) had applied to

multiple funding sources for different phases of the Napa Creek project. The City of Napa had applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMPG) program funds from FEMA, through OES. The proposed HMPG project would involve construction of a bypass culvert on the lower reach of Napa Creek. The HMPG funding for the lower culvert is currently under consideration by OES. Funding has also been requested from FEMA for construction of the second bypass culvert (upper reach), but processing the request will occur in the future. To reduce flood liability issues, construction of the upper reach should occur after the lower and middle reaches have been constructed.

Napa Creek improvements are part of the larger Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection Project (NRNCFPP) that is being constructed along seven miles of the Napa River. The project will provide 100-year flood protection for 2,700 homes and 350 businesses. The NRNCFPP will create 217 acres of emergent tidal marsh and seasonal wetland, 398 acres of wetlands and 72 acres of uplands will be enhanced. Furthermore, the project will create seven miles of recreation trails, and a promenade in the heart of downtown.

The Napa Flood Project was developed by a two year community-wide coalition process, which was coordinated by the Flood District. The Community Coalition has been a cooperative process among a wide ranging group of stakeholders with diverse interests. Appendix II-1 Contains the Goals and Objectives for a Living Napa River System. The Napa Creek Project is a joint effort between the Flood District and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) that designed it to protect the City of Napa from devastating floods while also enhancing the natural environment.

The most recent flood on December 31, 2005 caused $70 million in damage. It would have been much more devastating had it not been for the significant improvements in flood protection that have been implemented over the past 9 years. During the New Year's flood, county officials estimated that 50 acres were inundated by Napa Creek flooding.

Napa Creek is a vital feature in the landscape of downtown Napa, providing for important recreational and aesthetic elements. Upon completion, creek habitat will be improved, flooding risk lowered, and recreational opportunities created. This project will enhance flood protection corridors through the set-back terraces designed to contain transitory flood waters during high water events.

Flood Benefits: The portion of the Napa Creek Flood Protection Project (Project) to be funded by the FPCP is a 1,100 foot reach of Napa Creek, a Westside tributary to the Napa River, in the heart of downtown Napa. Historically, Napa Creek has overflowed its banks and flooded portions of downtown Napa (sheet flow) with events on the order of about 1 in 5 years. The floodplain area to be influenced by the project is heavily urbanized with numerous homes and businesses. Completion of the project will significantly reduce flood damages to 413 homes and 125 businesses having a total value on the order of $320 million.

The two major components to enlarging the capacity of the existing creek include construction of a setback terrace and along a portion of the project reach construction of two 10 ft X 12 ft concrete box culverts. The project has been under development by the Corps and others for many years.

Within the 1,100 foot long Project, most of the reach includes a natural/restored creek segment with increased flow area. Near creek developments prevent further bank setbacks throughout most of the reach. The enlarged channel and culverts more than double the without project in-channel flow capacity and is consistent with local floodplain management and FEMA minimum criteria.

Agricultural Benefits: N/A

Agricultural Land Conserved: N/A

Wildlife Benefits: Due to the presence of year-round water and a great diversity of plants, the riparian corridor along Napa Creek provides the highest diversity of native plants and animals within the City of Napa, and supports strong runs of Central California Coast Steelhead ESU and Chinook Salmon. The headwaters of Napa Creek (Redwood Creek) are one of the principle spawning grounds for Steelhead Trout in the Napa River basin. Furthermore, the creation of the floodplain terrace along the Creek will provide for greater connectivity in habitat, improving the availability of food sources and nesting/denning areas. The project will also increase riparian habitat, creating habitat for the Warbling Vireo, and increase shaded riverine aquatic cover essential for survival of listed species using the site for migration. Bird species present in project reach include green-backed herons, mallards, belted kingfishers, owls and hawks.

Total area (Flood and Wildlife) conserved: 4.2 acres

Other Benefits:. The Project design will enhance visual and ecological features and include an upland public park and interpretive facilities designed as an educational tool for Living River Strategy and the Project.

Total Cost: $11,757,873

FPCP Cost: $5,000,000 requested, $3,000,000 allowable to keep structural costs at 24% of FPCP grant. At 20% structural, grant amount would be $2,772,141.

Funding Partners and Share of Cost: Local Funds contributed is $5,653,172 and additional funding of $1,095,899.

Supplemental Information:

1. Is there a full hydrologic report with the application, or is there simply an engineer's opinion? Either way, what is the conclusion as to the anticipated flood

benefits of the project? Response: There is a full hydrologic report and the flood benefits are described above.

2. What exactly will the FPCP funds pay for? Response: Initially, the applicant requested $5 million for the lower culvert and the terrace portion of the project. Because the culvert is structural and the bulk of the costs, the FPCP could only pay a portion of the culvert costs. The applicant requested a modification of the budget to $4.7 million applying all grant funds to the terrace portion, but the new budget still has excessive structural costs. If we hold the structural portion to 20% of the grant, the maximum amount the FPCP could provide is $2.8 million.

    a. If the project applicant indicated they could accept less – then what (if anything) would be cut from the project? (What is lost by providing less FPCP grant money?) Response: The budget includes substantial structural costs including road reconstruction, end barriers and retaining walls. If these were removed from the scope of work, the applicant would have to find alternative funding for these.

    b. Does the applicant have access to alternate funding to replace the amount deducted from their request so that they can still spend the total amount they requested? If so, what would be the alternate funding source(s) and is the alternate funding already allocated, promised or committed? The applicant is undertaking the project in partnership with the City of Napa, and the City has other funding sources including the ½ cent sales tax passed for flood control.

    c. When giving a project score credit for matching funds, how much of the funding is matched? What is the source of the matching funds and are the matching funds already committed? Response: Some of the matching funds have already been expended. Others are coming from the Corps of Engineers, the ½ cent sales tax, the City of Napa, and funding set aside for this project.

3. If there is funding for acquisition of property, what is the type of ownership? Easement? Fee title? Or Both? Response: Combination of fee title and easements.
    a. Who will own the easement or fee title? DWR? Project applicant? Other? Response: The City will own fee title to a portion and the Flood Control District owns fee title to the remainder. This may be a location where a conservation easement is not needed in addition to fee title.

4. Does any portion of the project site have mitigation bank potential for DWR to gain mitigation credits for its maintenance program? (Note: Mitigation property would need to be within 40 miles of the disturbance area that needs to be mitigated). Response: There is no mitigation potential for DWR.

5. Is the project a USACE authorized project? If so, is there USACE funding for the project? Should the USACE be fully funding the project? Response: This is a USACE authorized project, but there is limited funding. The Corps is supplying $1.01 million.

6. Can the management of transitory water storage on the site be optimized for flood benefit? (look to the hydrology report for info on this). Is the applicant willing to work with DWR on water management during extreme flood events? Response: Transitory storage volume is too small for management during peaks. The project endeavors to improve conveyance so flood waters can run efficiently through the area without backing up onto adjoining properties.

New questions from 3/19/2008 meeting:

1. Does OES and FEMA know that the Napa Creek project is an ACOE project?
Yes, A paramount concern from the standpoint of OES and FEMA is that there is no duplication of funding. OES knows this is an overall project under the auspices of ACOE. FEMA can and will fund (3/25/2008 not yet awarded) the lower by-pass. FEMA can't fund the middle because of its non structural nature. The lower will provide protection. The upper needs the middle (DWR) to work properly.

2. Will the Napa Creek project be receiving hazard mitigation funding? FEMA has not made the decision to fund or not but the lower by-pass scored high enough to qualify for the $3,000,000. OES believes it will be funded.

3. Is the lower by-pass being funded by FEMA?
The lower by-pass will be funded (subject to FEMA) from a Federally Declared disaster designated DR-1628. FEMA formally accepted the lower by-pass application last September. They can only receive $3,000,000 federal for the lower and it has not yet been awarded, after award there is generally a 12 month period before the funds are available.

4. Is the upper by-pass being funded by FEMA?
The upper by-bass will be funded (subject to FEMA) by a later disaster designated DR-1731, $3,000,000 federal.